**Functions of the Organ System**

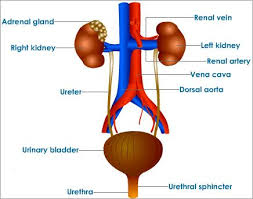
* Responsible for removing the liquid waste in the body
* Removes dangerous, unnecessary or excess material from the body (maintaining homeostasis = overall health)
* There are several organs that are involved with the excretory system, belonging to different organ systems around the body

**Different Parts of the Organ System**

* Urinary System
  + Kidneys (bean shaped organs, the size of the fist, process the blood and sift out waste which becomes urine)
  + Ureters (thin tubes that bring the urine from the kidney to the bladder)
  + Bladder (hollow, muscular balloon shaped organ that stores the urine)
  + Urethra (thin tube located at the bottom of the bladder, it releases the urine)
  + Renal vein, renal artery, vena cava, urethral sphincter
* Liver: breaks down toxins, converts excess amino acids in our bloodstream into other compounds the body can use. Produces urea (as a result). This gets removed from the bloodstream by the kidneys.
* Lungs: allows for elimination of carbon dioxide and water vapour, as well as other gases we breath out
* Skin: Excretes sweat and dead cells from the body

**How the Organs Function Together**

* The liver processes blood. It breaks down the blood so that nutrients can be used by the body. During this process, it excretes harmful substances which are filtered by the kidneys.
* Water and other materials absorbed by the body are moved through blood vessels to the kidneys. Blood goes to the kidneys through the renal artery and leaves through the renal vein. As blood passes through the kidneys, it is filtered and waste is removed. This waste forms urine. The urine goes through the ureters and is stored in the bladder. It is then eliminated via the urethra.
* Transpiration occurs on the outside of the body while all of this happens internally.



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Questions:

1. What is the main role of the excretory system? Name three organs that allow for it to function.

2. How does the bladder function as part of this system?

3. Explain how the lungs and skin are also a part of the excretory system.